(c) and (d) Proposals for establishment of additional capacity are considered keeping in view the availability of raw material and other relevant considerations. Manufacture of writing, printing and wrapping paper from agricultural residues, waste and bagasse is covered under de-licensing scheme.

Losses sustained by Metal Box India Ltd.

2708. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Metal Box India Limited which was earning very good profits has sustained a loss of more than Rs. 136 crores during the last financial year;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons for such a huge loss suffered by the Company; and

(c) what corrective steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) According to the information received from Metal Box I Ltd., the company had sustained a loss of Rs. 5.82 crores during the year ending 31st March, 1987 and a loss of Rs. 7.35 crores (unaudited) during the period April to September, 1987. The accumulated losses as on 30th September, 1987 stood at Rs. 26.57 crores.

(b) According to the company, the continuous losses were due to substantial increase in the cost of major raw materials, high incidence of differential custom duty and an increase in excise duty, and inadequate availability of Tin plates from indigenous sources resulting in low capacity utilisation.

(c) Under the provisions of the sick industrial companies (Special Provisions Act, 1985), Govt. have set up Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) which looks into the various aspects of revival of sick industrial companies. Such sick industrial companies are required to report sickness to the Board for considering suitable measures for revival/rehabilitation. It is understood from BIFR that Metal Box India Ltd., have already approached them and their case has been registered by the Board on 15-1-88.

Price control on Aminophylline etc.

2709. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Quesion 635 given in the Rajya Sabha one 29th February, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Aminophylline, Quinidine Sulphate, Pethidine Hcl, Analgin Sulphadimidine in bulk are under price control under DPCO 1987;

(b) whether it is also a fact that fifinished medicines marketed under generic name of scheduled drugs are exempted from price control as per DPCO, 1987;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Manufactuers of these products have increased the price from 30 per cent to 185 per cent; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to safeguard the consumer from the expliotation of drug companies?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) All the bulk drugs referred to in the question except Pethidine Hcl are price controlled under DPCO, 1987.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Prices of some formulations being marketed under generic name have gone up.